

# Youth Partnership

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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



## Call for Experts to Draft a Handbook on Quality in Learning Mobility in the Youth Field

*Deadline for applications: 12 February 2018 9:00 CET*

The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth is looking for three experts to develop a handbook on quality in learning mobility. The work is to be undertaken in the period mid-February – end of December 2018.

### Background and rationale

The team of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth assures co-ordination of the [European Platform on Learning Mobility \(EPLM\)](#). The EPLM is a space for exchange and cooperation of researchers, policy makers, and practitioners around the topics linked to learning mobility in the youth field

Learning mobility is meant as transnational mobility undertaken for a period of time, consciously organised for educational purposes. It covers a wide variety of projects and activities and can be implemented in formal or non-formal settings.

The EPLM focuses on non-formal learning with links to informal learning as well as to formal education. Learning mobility in this framework aims to increase participation, active citizenship, intercultural learning and dialogue, individual competency development and employability of young people. Mobility is also to be understood as a possible source of genuine and diverse learning experiences. The EPLM, in its work, not only considers European youth mobility policies and programmes, but is also more generally interested in learning mobility as a set of complex social processes transforming the conditions of growing up in Europe. Moreover, the EPLM focuses on physical and organised learning mobility but does not overlook the virtual mobility facilitating and supporting physical mobility experiences.

In 2015, the European Platform on Learning Mobility in the youth field (EPLM) launched the work on developing a Quality Framework for learning mobility in the youth field. The Quality Framework aims to provide advice and guidance to organisers of mobility projects – especially first-time organisers or organisers who do not work with transnational mobility on a regular basis – on how to improve the quality of mobility activities undertaken in the field of youth and mainly in a non-formal context.

The Quality Framework is meant to consist of three elements:

1. A set of overarching *quality principles* for mobility, which constitutes a tool for reflection that mobility organisers can use in the pre-planning phase to focus their thoughts on relevant quality aspects of their project;
2. A set of detailed *quality indicators* that function as a targeted check-list in the planning phase to ensure that learning outcomes of the project, as well as issues linked to inclusion, health and safety for participants and their active participation in the process are safeguarded;
3. A *Quality Handbook* that underpins the principles and the indicators with more extensive explanations and references to relevant sources of information, tools, and examples of good practice.

The Quality Framework constitutes a coherent and cohesive set of tools and documents that can help organisers ensure that their mobility projects are undertaken in a setting that is as conducive as possible to the achievement of the stipulated learning objectives. Even though they can be used independently, there is a clear line of progression between the 3 elements of the framework, and they are designed to be used together, building upon one another and employing a consistent vocabulary and a common structure.

Currently, the work on developing quality principles has been finalised, and a set of 22 principles has been formulated and endorsed by the Steering Group of the EPLM. Likewise, a draft set of 120 quality indicators was developed in the course of 2017, and is currently undergoing a validation process in the context of the EPLM.

### Handbook

The handbook is not on theoretical aspects, but on providing a hands-on tool, written in a lucid and accessible language, that can be used primarily by target groups with only little or no previous experience or knowledge on planning and implementing learning mobility.

Taking its point of departure in the already elaborated principles and indicators, it supports the reader's understanding of these by providing more extensive explanations as well as references to further information and – where appropriate – self-instructing examples of tools and good practice.

The handbook will be drafted in English.

### Timeline

The selection of three experts, who will draft the handbook, is expected to take place by the end of February 2018, and the work will commence immediately afterwards. As the first step in the process, the selected experts will attend an *inception meeting* in Luxembourg on 5-6 March, together with a representative of the team of the EU-CoE youth partnership, to agree on a common basis for the work and a division of the workload. After this meeting, the process will proceed mainly through electronic communication.

The *first deliverable* is expected by mid-April 2018, where the experts will provide a detailed outline of structure and contents of the handbook as well as a sample of text (2-3 chapters) that can give a clear indication of the finished product. This outline will be presented and discussed at the *Expert Seminar of the EPLM* that is planned for May 15-17 (tbc) in France. At least 1 and preferably all 3 of the experts will be present at this seminar, which will provide valuable feedback and input for the ongoing work.

After the seminar, the experts will finalise the handbook and submit it to the team of the EU-CoE youth partnership according to a schedule that is agreed immediately after the seminar's conclusion.

The *final deliverable* in the shape of the entire draft handbook (contents) is to be handed in by 15 November 2018. Throughout the period from the commencement of the work to the delivery of the final draft text, the experts will maintain a close contact with the team of the EU-CoE youth partnership, which will, in turn, liaise with a group of members of the Steering Group of the EPLM.

### The experts

The experts in charge of drafting the handbook will have complementary competences that reflect the nature of the challenge and the heterogeneous character of the target group. Common to all 3 of the experts, however, is that they –

- Have an intimate knowledge of, and contacts with, learning mobility and non-formal education in the field of youth;
- Are able to communicate fluently in English and have strong drafting skills in the same language;
- Are experienced with working in multicultural settings;
- Are capable of working according to a flexible and at times hectic and tight work schedule.

Besides these, the following knowledge and experience should ideally be represented in the expert group:

- Expertise in writing pedagogical manuals;
- Familiarity with research on youth mobility (past and present);
- Contacts with networks of grass-root level practitioners in the field of youth and learning mobility;
- Knowledge of the use of transnational mobility as a pedagogical tool also in other contexts (e.g. higher education, vocational education and training, general and adult education etc.).

At least one of the experts is expected to have been involved in drafting of one of the previous elements of the Quality Framework (Principles, Indicators).

Of the three selected experts, one will act as a *chief editor*, who is in charge of directing the process and the ongoing liaison with the secretariat of the EU-CoE youth partnership.

### Remuneration

In total, an amount of 12 working days is foreseen for the drafting process, for a total of 3600 EUR per expert. The chief editor will receive additional 900 EUR.

Travel and subsistence expenses for the required meetings will be covered by the EU-CoE youth partnership.

### Deadline

To submit your application, please send your CV and cover letter to the address [davide.capecchi@partnership-eu.coe.int](mailto:davide.capecchi@partnership-eu.coe.int) no later than **12 February 2018 9:00 CET**. The selection will be finalised by 15 February 2018.

For more information, please contact Davide Capecchi, member of the team of the EU-CoE youth partnership: [davide.capecchi@partnership-eu.coe.int](mailto:davide.capecchi@partnership-eu.coe.int)